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England system of manufactures. He was profusely, yet wisely generous in his charities, acquitting himself as the trustee of his large wealth for benevolent uses. In all the relations of life, in every aspect of his private character, in his ample success and prosperity, in heavy domestic sorrows, in the great grief that darkened his closing days, he manifested the faith, and trust, and hallowing power of mature Christian piety. Mr. Winthrop's Memoir is composed largely from autobiographical memoranda, compiled and supplemented with a taste and skill and loving reverence that constitute a most appropriate memorial of a greatly good man.

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31. — *Religio Medici, A Letter to a Friend, Christian Morals, Urn-Burial, and other Papers.* By SIR THOMAS BROWNE, Kt., M. D. Boston : Ticknor and Fields. 1862. 16mo. pp. xviii., 432.

SIR THOMAS BROWNE holds unchallenged a foremost place among *born* authors, that is, among the men who write not for an express purpose, or for the treatment of specific subjects, but because they have minds full to overflowing, and a social, loving nature which must needs find vent in free communication with kindred minds. With such writers, it makes not the slightest difference what the nominal subject is, or rather, the less there is in a subject, the more full and free and intimate are their self-revelations. Browne has a *naïveté* equal to Montaigne's; but, unlike the Frenchman's, his is an interior consciousness which he never need blush to betray. His culture, too, was as large and generous as his nature. In physical science, indeed, he enunciates not a few absurdities and falsities, with the air of a man of omnivorous credulity; but it must be remembered that the inductive philosophy was then in its infancy, and that England fell into the rear of Continental Europe in the application of the new method to the study of nature. But with much in this department of knowledge that is absolutely anile, our author unites a large conversance with books, and especially with the curiosities of literature, both ancient and modern, a keen insight into human character, dialectic skill of no mean order, and a shrewd practical philosophy.

The only complete edition of Sir Thomas Browne with which we are acquainted is the beautiful Aldine edition, in four octavo volumes, edited by Wilkin. In this there is a good deal of material that is more curious than edifying. Dr. Young, of this city, devoted to Browne one volume of his "Library of Old English Prose-Writers," and in this form alone, till now, as we believe, have any of his works been issued from the American press. We rejoice to announce with the new year

the appearance of the beautiful volume named at the head of this notice. It has been edited by the junior partner of the publishing firm, with his well-known skill, taste, and fidelity. It comes from the University Press, and is perhaps its master-work as a specimen of typography. We have seen no more handsomely printed American book. It has a somewhat antique and quaint aspect, admirably corresponding with its contents. The title-page type, the initial letters, and the ornamental work in general, — specially designed for this volume, and not merely copied from English books, — are of very great beauty, and are at the same time in admirable keeping with the mechanical style of the text, and equally so with its pervading tone of thought and sentiment.

32. — *Record of an Obscure Man.* Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1861. 16mo. pp. 216.

IN this book we have a series of disquisitions concerning the African race in their native continent and our own, incorporated with a story so life-like in its details that we could almost think it true, were it not that well-wrought fiction is always less abnormal and more truth-like than fact. The only fault that we can find with the book is, that both its aims are too perfectly attained for either to seem subsidiary to the other, so that we carry through its perusal a divided interest, and make our transitions reluctantly. The story is so exquisitely told, with such tender pathos, with such delicate characterization, with so many painfully attractive incidents and experiences, that we do not like to suspend it for matter of even the gravest interest. On the other hand, the disquisitions manifest so careful study, so comprehensive a grasp of the subject, a philosophy so sound, a philanthropy so true, yet so wise, that they have no need of an artificial setting, but claim to be framed and rounded into a continuous treatise.

33. — *Spectacles for Little Eyes.* Boston: Walker, Wise, & Co. 1862. 16mo. pp. 198.

THIS is a description of Boston and its environs, framed in a story, with numerous and well-executed cuts, and designed and adapted for the instruction of children. The selection of subjects is happily made, and the execution indicates an author familiar with juvenile needs and tastes, and capable of making the acquisition of knowledge a pleasant pastime. We would say emphatically that the *imprimatur* of Walker, Wise, & Co. upon a book for young readers is a guaranty of its purity of taste, its high moral character, and its substantial usefulness.